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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/814,420	03/21/2001	Dietmar Wannke	1527	4066

7590 04/23/2004
STRIKER, STRIKER & STENBY
103 East Neck Road
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EXAMINER

LAO, TIM P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2655

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/814,420

Applicant(s)

WANNKE, DIETMAR

Examiner

Tim Lao

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 4 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(o) because there are no descriptive legends for the schematic blocks of Fig.1 and Fig.2. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hiyokawa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,825,306) (hereinafter, "Hiyokawa").

Claim(s) 1	<p><u>Hiyokawa discloses:</u></p> <p>A method for speech control of an electrical device (navigation system: col.1, ll.58-63; see Abstract), comprising the steps of:</p> <p>acoustically inputting information by spelling in an electrical device; (Abstract, 1st ¶; col.2, ll.14-21; col.3, ll.13-18, ll.29-32; col.5, ll.31-35) and</p>
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	outputting by the electrical device a recognized character or a recognized symbol or a recognized character- or symbol sequence for acknowledgment of the character- or symbol input. (Abstract, 1 st ¶; col.3, ll. 22-28; Fig.3, col.5, ll.4-19)
Claim(s) 2	<p><u>Hiyokawa discloses:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising the output of the known character or symbol before a next input. (Abstract 1st ¶; Fig.3, col.5, ll.4-19; Fig.4, col.5, ll.47-67; col.6, ll.1-17)</p> <p><i>{In Fig. 3, for example, 'A' is the first character inputted, then the target names beginning with the recognized character 'A' is displayed. 'B' is inputted next and is displayed along with the target names beginning with 'AB', and so forth.}</i></p>
Claim(s) 3	<p><u>Hiyokawa discloses:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising the output of the known character or symbol acoustically. (col.3, ll.22-28; col.4, ll.44-47)</p>
Claim(s) 4	<p><u>Hiyokawa discloses:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising the output of the known character or symbol optically. (see Abstract, 1st ¶; col.3, ll.22-28; see Fig.3)</p>
Claim(s) 5	<p><u>Hiyokawa discloses:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising the output of the known character or symbol acoustically and optically. (see Abstract, 1st ¶; col.3, ll.22-28; col.4, ll.44-47; see Fig.3)</p>
Claim(s) 13	<p><u>Hiyokawa discloses:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising using a navigation system of a motor vehicle as the electrical device. (col.1, ll.12-16, ll.58-63)</p>

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6-12 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiyokawa et al. (U.S. Patent 5,825,306) in view of Rossides (U.S. Patent 5,454,063).

Claim(s)

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Hiyokawa does not show:

A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising providing a correction of a not correctly recognized character or symbol or a not correctly recognized character- or symbol sequence of previously inputted characters or previously inputted symbols or previously inputted character- or symbol sequence correspondingly.

However, Rossides teaches:

A method for providing a correction of a not correctly recognized character or symbol or a not correctly recognized character- or symbol sequence of previously inputted characters or previously inputted symbols or previously inputted character- or symbol sequence correspondingly. (col.12, ll.57-67; col.13, ll.1-11; col.6, ll.9-14)

{The method taught by Rossides is a method for searching names in database using a speaker's letters and words as inputs. (see Abstract; col.1, ll.64-67; col.2, ll.1-6, ll.34-39; col.4, ll.32-38)}

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the character inputting method of Hiyokawa to include the letter correction method of Rossides in order to correct the incorrectly recognized letters in the spelling of the input words. As indicated by Rossides, speech recognizers have difficulty recognizing letters (col.1, ll.25-35), providing the correction (erasure) function would ensure that the words are correctly recognized before those words are entered.

<p>Claim(s) 7</p>	<p><u>The combination of Hiyokawa and Rossides would show:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 6, wherein said correcting includes again acoustically inputting of the previously inputted character or the previously inputted symbol of the previously inputted character- or symbol sequence. (Rossides: col.13, ll.26-37; col.14, ll.1-10) <i>{The erasure function and the re-spelling capability allow the speaker to again input previously inputted characters or letters.}</i></p>
<p>Claim(s) 8</p>	<p><u>Hiyokawa does not show:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 1; and further comprising outputting a stored information as an input proposal.</p> <p><u>However, Rossides teaches:</u></p> <p>outputting a stored information as an input proposal (suggestion). (col.21, ll.55-67; col.22, ll.1-48)</p> <p>It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the character inputting method of Hiyokawa to include the method of suggested inputs of Rossides in order to suggest inputs for the speakers in case of incorrect spelling of words. This would provide a more user-friendly interactive system.</p>
<p>Claim(s) 9</p>	<p><u>Hiyokawa does not show:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 8; and further comprising performing said outputting of the stored information during a determination of a coincidence of a sequence of individual inputted characters or symbols with the stored information.</p> <p><u>However, Rossides teaches:</u></p> <p>performing said outputting of the stored information during a determination of a coincidence (probability value) of a sequence of individual inputted characters or symbols with the stored information. (col.25, ll.49-67; col.26, ll.1-32)</p>

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	<p><i>{Coincidence is interpreted as probability value of a character being recognized is the correct character is the correct character during the look-up of stored information. (col.26, ll.10-15)}</i></p> <p>It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the character inputting method of Hiyokawa to include the coincidence determination of Rossides in order to give a confidence measure of the inputted character is the correctly recognized character. Using the confidence value as a measured target would lead to a recognized character as a most likely correct character.</p>
Claim(s) 10	<p><u>The combination of Hiyokawa and Rossides shows:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 8; and further comprising performing said outputting of the stored information (suggestion) at a beginning of a stored information. (Rossides: col.21, ll.55-67; col.22, ll.1-48)</p> <p><i>{Using the letter and word erasure function, the suggestion are outputted at the beginning.}</i></p>
Claim(s) 11	<p><u>Hiyokawa does not show:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 8; and further comprising receiving the input proposal by a speech input of a confirmation command.</p> <p><u>However, Rossides teaches:</u></p> <p>receiving the input proposal by a speech input of a confirmation command. (col.19, ll.59-67; col.20, ll.1-2)</p> <p>It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the character inputting method of Hiyokawa to include the confirmation command of Rossides in order to confirm the characters inputted. Using the confirmation command would ensure that the inputted characters are correct sequence of characters before entered as input.</p>
Claim(s) 12	<p><u>Hiyokawa does not show:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 8; and further comprising rejecting of the input proposal</p>

	<p>by a speech input of a further character or symbol or a further character-space or symbol sequence.</p> <p><u>However, Rossides teaches:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 8; and further comprising rejecting of the input proposal (suggestion) by a speech input of a further character or symbol or a further character-space or symbol sequence. (col.19, ll.59-67; col.20, ll.1-2)</p> <p>It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the character inputting method of Hiyokawa to include the rejection command of Rossides in order to reject the suggestion by a further speech input. The suggestion may not necessarily be what the speaker wants. In this case, it would be easier for the speaker to re-enter the inputted characters.</p>
Claim(s) 14	<p><u>Hiyokawa shows:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 13; and further comprising using for the information to be inputted an information selected from the group consisting of a target command (target names, e.g., destinations) and a route input (alphabetical characters and numerics). (col.2, ll.14-33)</p> <p><u>Hiyokawa does not show:</u></p> <p>the information to be inputted is selected from a control command.</p> <p><u>However, Rossides teaches:</u></p> <p>the information to be inputted is selected from a control command (e.g., letter identifier, word done). (col.5, ll.7-11, ll.46-48; col.9, ll.39-51; col.10, ll.52-58; col.12, ll.39-50)</p> <p>It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the group of target command and route input of Hiyokawa to include the control command of Rossides in order to control the information to be inputted. This would provide a more user-friendly interactive system.</p>

Claim(s) 15	<p><u>The combination of Hiyokawa and Rossides shows:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 12; and further comprising:</p> <p>inputting target- and route input in individual characters (Hiyokawa: col.2, ll.14-33)</p> <p>control commands (e.g., letter identifier, word done) as symbol sequences with at least two symbols. (Rossides: col.5, ll.7-11, ll.46-48; col.9, ll.39-51; col.10, ll.52-58; col.12, ll.39-50)</p>
Claim(s) 16	<p><u>The combination of Hiyokawa and Rossides shows:</u></p> <p>A method as defined in claim 14; and further comprising using the inputted symbols ('w', 'o', 'r', 'd') during the symbol input of control commands (e.g., word done) as initial characters of a word. (Rossides: col.5, ll.7-11, ll.46-48; col.9, ll.39-51; col.10, ll.52-58; col.12, ll.39-50)</p>

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent Documents:

- [1] 6,526,292 B1 02/2003 Henry, Jr.
[2] 5,917,889 06/1999 Brotman et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tim Lao whose telephone number is 703-305-8955.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doris To can be reached on 703-305-4827. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tim Lao
Examiner
Art Unit 2655

TL
04/17/04



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